



John J. McKeithen

State Report

The Official Journal of Louisiana's Office of the Secretary of State

Spring 2001

Vol. 4 No.2

Sports Complex Named To Honor Gov. McKeithen

The Gov. John J. McKeithen Sports and Entertainment Complex became a reality when the area around the Superdome was named to honor the former governor. A 9-foot, half-ton statue of McKeithen will be unveiled at the site later this year.

As governor from 1964 to 1972, McKeithen endorsed the Superdome project for downtown New Orleans and pushed it forward despite strong political opposition. Thanks to his initial efforts, the stadium was completed in 1975. After McKeithen's death last year, the Superdome Commission voted to name the complex in honor of the former governor, while retaining the naming rights of the actual dome for a future corporate sponsor.

Oil entrepreneur Patrick Taylor and Jefferson Parish Sheriff Harry Lee will pay for the cost of the massive, bronze statue created by Louisiana sculptor Patrick Miller in the likeness of Gov. McKeithen.

"We are deeply appreciative of this

gesture honoring the patriarch of the McKeithen family," said Secretary of State W. Fox McKeithen upon receiving a rendering of the statue at the naming ceremony. "It is an appropriate recognition of all the hard work my father did promoting and pushing for the Superdome, and our entire family is proud of his efforts."

By naming the complex for McKeithen, the Superdome Commission was able to honor the former governor and still maintain lucrative naming rights of the Superdome itself for a potential sponsor. "So, everybody is happy," McKeithen added.

Directional signs and markers on the property surrounding the dome now reflect the new name for the sports and entertainment complex.



Artist's rendering of the Gov. John McKeithen statue to be placed at the New Orleans Superdome.

Museum Receives Long Treasure-Trove

The State Exhibit Museum at Shreveport received a true treasure-trove: 26 personal scrapbooks of former governor Huey P. Long.

"These are priceless," said historian Gary Joiner of Red River Regional Studies at LSU Shreveport, speaking of the artifacts. The indexed scrapbooks include newspaper articles, original letters and even political memorabilia, such as three "Huey Long for President" lapel buttons.

The books were kept from 1923, during Long's tenure as railroad commissioner, until he was assassinated in 1935, according to museum director Forrest Dunn. "You just can't believe all that is here," said Dunn.

The Long family also donated the quartersawn oak desk that Long used while governor and had shipped to Washington when he was a U.S.

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Museum Director Forrest Dunn displays scrapbook on Long's desk.

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Department of Elections Administrator Frances Hurst oversees a variety of tasks from qualifying candidates to printing ballots.

Hurst Heads Elections Department

Ms. Frances Hurst serves as Administrator of the Secretary of State's Department of Elections, Publications and Commissions. She and her staff are responsible for a vast array of duties which include scheduling elections, qualifying candidates, printing and distributing absentee and regular ballots for voting machines; and finally, compiling and reporting official election returns.

The Publications Office publishes and distributes the acts and journals of the legislature. In addition, it publishes The Louisiana Roster of Officials, the Election Code Booklet listing all of Louisiana's election statutes, the Election Returns Books that contain precinct-by-precinct returns for all presidential and gubernatorial elections.

The Commissions Office issues the

official document that empowers office holders to perform their official duties. Commissions are issued by the governor and countersigned by the secretary of state.

Ms. Hurst is a native of Richland Parish and a graduate of University of Louisiana at Monroe with a Masters plus 30. She also studied at UCLA. A member of University Baptist Church, she also serves a Secretary of Broadmoor United Methodist Women's Circle. Former president of the Baton Rouge Excaliber Club, she currently serves as secretary-treasurer.

Her free time is spent with her two sons, Winston and Rhett.

Long Treasure-Trove

Continued from page 1

Senator. The governor's grandson, Palmer Long, said the family donated the material because, "as a family, we felt this was a good thing to add to the city of Shreveport, something no one else had seen."

According to Alan Gabehart, dean of Noel Memorial Library at LSUS, scrapbooks are particularly valuable because they often serve as primary information for researchers..

Long's desk is on display at the museum, but arrangements for displaying the scrapbooks are incomplete.

The exhibit runs through April 15. For additional information, call (318) 632-2020.

Exhibit Encourages Activism at Old State Capitol

Secretary of State W. Fox McKeithen announced the opening of a new permanent exhibition at the Old State Capitol.

This one of a kind exhibit engages the visitor in the political process through voting, identifying party platforms and personalizing legislative activities.

"What the people learn here is to rely on one source of information, but to utilize all sources available to them before making a decision," Secretary of State Fox McKeithen said. "The most important thing is to step up and make the informed decision to vote, which is not only a responsibility but a privilege."

"We the People" is designed to inspire visitors to realize they control their government through active participation in the democratic process. The exhibit is also intended to answer the most common questions asked by citizens: can you alone stand up for an issue and make a difference in your state? If you controlled the state budget, how would you allocate your tax dollars? Are you an informed voter? Do you vote in every election?

A computer interactive site allows visitors to make a Louisiana budget; a Hall of Fame highlighting Louisianians with intriguing stories of political participation; and an evaluation of the key national and state issues that ends with the identification of party platforms. In the exhibit's final room, visitors listen to stories of groups who fought to acquire suffrage, and the visitors are guided through a process of making an informed voting decision.

For more information or photographs on "We the People," call the Old State Capitol at (225) 342-0500 or 800-488-2968.

'Art Under the Oaks'

The annual "Art Under the Oaks" fine arts festival is scheduled for April 1, 2001, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Edward Douglas's White Historic Site. It will feature fine artists from the region displaying and selling their works, as well as food prepared on site, the New Orleans Museum of Art's "Art Van Go," music, children's activities and more.

Admission is \$2 for adults, and \$1 for children at the gate. The address is 2295 St. Mary Street (La. Hwy. 1), six miles north of Thibodaux.

Did You Know...

The La State Archives building was recognized as one of the most modern archival institutions in the US?

The Archives houses a premier collection of archival documents?

IBM cited the La secretary of state website as one of the best public information websites in the nation?

Staff Welcomes New State Archivist

Louisiana has a new State Archivist: Florent Hardy, Jr., Ph.D. Secretary of State W. Fox McKeithen hired Dr. Hardy as Archivist when Dr. Donald Lemieux retired last January. The State Archivist is responsible for directing the division of Archives, Records Management and History, providing a multiprogram system for managing all governmental records in the state and ensuring the preservation of and public access to all records deemed to be of historical, archival or of other vital interest to the citizens and/or government.

"The most rewarding aspects of being State Archivist are knowing that members of the State Archives staff are conscientiously striving to preserve Louisiana's interesting history, making Louisiana citizens more aware of their rich heritage and preparing for future technological developments in the archival field," Dr. Hardy said.

Dr. Hardy is a native of St. Martin Parish. He received his Bachelor of Arts

and Master of Arts in History as well as another Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies Education from the University of Southwestern Louisiana (USL), now the University of Louisiana in Lafayette (ULL). Hardy then received his doctorate in Philosophy with Secondary Education as his major and History as his minor from Louisiana State University (LSU).

Before Dr. Hardy assumed the position as State Archivist, he was the Director/Program Executive for Research and Publications at the Louisiana Community and Technical College System. He was a teacher at the elementary, middle and high school levels in Breaux Bridge for five years and an instructor of American History and Louisiana History at ULL.

Dr. Hardy has served both as chairman and member of many boards, committees and organizations. He serves on the American Careers Advisory Board of Directors for Career Communications, Inc. in Overland Park, Kansas and has since 1995. He has received several certificates and awards on the local, state, national and international levels such as the American Vocational Association Outstanding Service Award, Epsilon Pi Tau, the International Honorary for Professions in Technology and the Louisiana Vocational Association Outstanding Service Award.

"Hiring Dr. Hardy for the position of State Archivist was a win-win situation for our office and the state of Louisiana," McKeithen said. "He brings to us a lifetime of work as an educator, historian and administrator, and we are happy to have him on board to continue the mission of the Louisiana State Archives."



Dr. Florent Hardy, Jr.

Artifacts Sought for History's Sake

The Louisiana State Archives houses many artifacts, letters, maps, photographs, newspapers and official documents explaining the history of Louisiana. Many of these items were donated to the State Archives to be preserved and displayed. Yet throughout the state, many other important items are unknowingly concealed in closets or attics, risking the threat of ruining by time and neglect.

Secretary of State W. Fox McKeithen has a solution. He has launched a campaign called "For the Sake of History" encouraging everyone to look through their attics and closets for letters, photographs, newspapers, or other items with historically significant potential.

"We're asking everyone to consider donating these items to the State Archives where they can be properly maintained," McKeithen said. "Our State Archives is one of the most modern archival facilities in the United States, and we have the staff and resources to repair, catalogue and store these historical gems."

McKeithen also mentioned that individuals could receive tax credits for certain donations made to the State Archives. Anyone wishing to donate such items can contact the Louisiana State Archives at (225) 922-1200.

State Archives

From March until the end of July, the State Archives will work with the American/Italian Museum in New Orleans and the Italian community to show the history and accomplishments of Louisiana residents of Italian descent. The gallery will display original Italian arts and artwork.

Throughout August through December, the State Archives will

State Exhibit Museum

The Louisiana State Exhibit Museum in Shreveport celebrates two of Louisiana's most famous governors, Huey P. and Earl K. Long, throughout the month of April.

Birth Certificates Available Locally

Thanks to Act 1277 of the Legislature, Louisiana residents can now receive their birth certificates at the parish level from clerks of court.

The new certificates will be issued in a short-form card size as well as in the traditional long-form size. The short-form certificate includes a \$5 surcharge and costs \$14. Act 118 of the First Special Session 2000 made the short-form valid for all purposes where

a certificate is required by the state. The long-form certificate, which includes a \$9 surcharge and costs \$24, may be required for such things as applying for a passport or a Social Security card.

Both types can be obtained at more than half of the state's parish courthouses. For any additional information, contact your local clerk of court office.

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The Official Journal of Louisiana's
Office of the Secretary of State

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Questions and comments should be
submitted to State Report,
Office of the Secretary of State,
P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
70804-9125

This public document was published at a total cost of \$332.40. 1,500 copies of this public document were published in this first printing at a cost of \$332.40. The total cost of all printings of this document including reprints is \$332.40. This document was published by Bourque Printing, Inc., 13112 S. Choctaw Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70815, to provide elected officials, corporate leaders, tourism and economic development entities and others with up-to-date information pertaining to the Office of the Secretary of State, under special exemption by the Division of Administration. This document was printed in accordance with standards for printing by State Agencies established pursuant to R. S. 43.41. Printing of this document was purchased in accordance with the provisions of title 43 of the Louisiana revised statutes.